AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following at page 1, after the title and before line 1:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1.   Field of the Invention

Please add the following at page 1, between lines 5 and 6:

2.   Related Art

Please add the following at page 2, between lines 15 and 16:

BRIEF SUMMARY

Please add the following at page 7, between lines 15 and 16:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace paragraph at page 7, beginning at line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 1A, 1AB and 1BC are flowcharts which illustrate schematically the operation of three embodiments of the invention;

Please amend the paragraph at page 7, beginning at line 28:

Figure 5a and 5b illustrate an image coder according to the present invention;

Please amend the paragraph at page 8, beginning at line 5:

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Figure 12 shows an example for selection of text pixel groups in order to increase processing speed; and

Please amend the paragraph at page 8, line 7:

Figure 13 ~~illustrated~~illustrates the processing of consecutive frames of a moving picture.

Please add the following at page 8, between lines 7 and 8:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 9 as follows:

The components illustrated in Figure 4 comprise an input means 41, such as a scanner, a central processing unit (CPU) 42, an output unit such as a visual display unit (VDU) or printer 43, a memory 44, and a calculation processor 45. The memory includes stores 440, 444 – 446, registers 441, 447 – 449 and counters 442, 443~~,~~. The data and the programs for controlling the computer are stored in the memory 44. The CPU 42 controls the functioning of the computer using this information.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, beginning at line 15 as follows:

Considering now Figures 1A and 4, an image 40 to be analysed is accessed by the input means 41 and stored in a digital form in an image store 440, as an array A of pixels x where each pixel has colour intensities (r_x, g_x, b_x) attributed to it.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, beginning at line 28 as follows:

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The distance used may be any of those conventionally used, such as the Euclidean distance or the "city block" distance between the positions within the image of the two pixels. If the horizontal and vertical coordinates of x_j are $p(x_j)$ and $q(x_j)$ then the Euclidean distance is

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, beginning at line 7 as follows:

The output unit 43 is typically a storage medium which stores the anomaly values of each pixel for display by means of a printer, visual display unit, etc. or for subsequent processing, for example image compression as will be described later with reference to Figures 5 to 11.

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, beginning at line 11 as follows:

Considering now Figures 1A̶B and 4, the image 40 to be analysed is accessed by the input means 41 and stored in a digital form in an image store 440, as an array A of pixels x where each pixel has colour intensities (r_x, g_x, b_x) attributed to it, or, in the case of grey level images, a single grey scale intensity value t_x.

Please replace line 7, at page 19 as follows:

The procedure used is shown in Figure 1B̶C:

Please replace line 1 of page 46 as follows:

~~CLAIMS~~

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: